

on Tuesday. Tuesday came and went. Even though great progress was made on negotiations and reform and movement on the money issue, there was still no agreement to go forward on the bill. Now here we are on Wednesday. Each time I have called and talked to the Democratic leader, I have had the impression that he would like to move forward, but, he was just not quite ready yet.

I understand what is occurring. Leverage is being applied on the President to try to get more money, and to get a commitment to spend more and more money. It is obvious what is happening. But I don't think that is the responsible thing to do.

I think we should go forward with the bill. In the past I have been criticized because I wouldn't move to a bill and just said let's let the Senate work its will. Let's have amendments. Let's have votes. Some amendments win; some lose. In the end, you have a product, and then you vote and go forward.

I am being told until a total agreement is reached, we cannot go forward. I do not understand. Education is the highest priority in America with the President, the legislative branch, the States, the Governors, local school officials—everybody—and here we are. We stand, and we wait.

We are ready to go to the bill. Let's take it up. Let's have a free-flowing debate. Let's have amendments. Let's have votes. Let's do our job. Yet I am told we cannot even proceed to the bill.

Well, I am going to be patient. I am hoping that by this afternoon we can at least proceed to this bill. It was reported unanimously out of committee. Let's go to the underlying bill. We can have some amendments offered. Then, if there is agreement between all the parties, the manager can offer an amendment, and we can amend that.

So I say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, let's begin. Let's do our job on education. We have had enough time. We should have done the bill in February. But I was told by the committee it was not ready. Then I was told we were making progress. And then it was reported out overwhelmingly. Everybody was happy. We are ready to go, and yet here we are and we cannot go forward.

So rather than just at this point mark time, I thought it was important that we go forward and try to take up another bill while we hope that some agreement can be reached and we can move forward on the education bill.

I talked to the chairman of the committee that has jurisdiction over the brownfields legislation. I had thought maybe there would be a need to go to this legislation as we were getting ready to go home for the Easter period. I indicated to the chairman I thought it would be necessary for him to be prepared to go forward. He is ready to do so.

So I think I am going to ask for an agreement I believe the Democratic leadership is agreeable to this that we

would go forward with this legislation which affects all of our States, a lot of communities. This is some reform legislation that hopefully will allow more of these brownfields to actually be cleaned up and not just be a lawyers' enhancement act. This will be a plus for the institution and it will get us some results. I believe we can do this in a couple hours and we would be prepared to have a vote at about 2 o'clock or so.

I inquire of the chairman of the committee, is your counterpart ready?

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Yes.

Mr. LOTT. I see the Senator from Nevada.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. We are ready.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the chairman and the ranking member for the work they have already done and for being ready to go to this bill on short notice.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 350

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11:15 today the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 19, S. 350, the brownfields legislation, and it be considered under the following limitation: There be 2 hours of debate equally divided between the two managers, and no amendments be in order to the bill other than a managers' amendment.

Finally, I ask unanimous consent that following the use or yielding back of time, the managers' amendment be agreed to, the committee substitute be agreed to, the bill be read a third time, and the bill then be temporarily set aside with a vote occurring on passage at 2 p.m. today, with no intervening action or debate.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUNNING). The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object.

The Senator from West Virginia has an important statement to give regarding one of our valued employees in the Senate. The Senator from West Virginia, I understand, wants to speak for 10 or 15 minutes.

Mr. BYRD. Fifteen at the most.

Mr. REID. Maybe we could start this at 11:25.

Mr. LOTT. I modify my request so that we would begin then at 11:25, to allow Senator BYRD to go forward with his statement between now and then.

Mr. REID. I say to the majority leader, that would leave 2 hours and 35 minutes until 2 o'clock.

Mr. LOTT. Yes.

Mr. REID. There are no amendments in order anyway. We may have some people who wish to speak on it. Would that be OK with the leader?

Mr. LOTT. I am not sure I understand what the request is.

Mr. REID. Rather than ending the debate at approximately 1:25, we would do it at 2 o'clock and just vote at 2 o'clock.

Mr. LOTT. That would be fine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request, as modified?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished majority leader and the distinguished minority whip for their kindness and courtesy to me.

TRIBUTE TO JIM ENGLISH

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart. And I do not say that without justification. I measure my words in saying that I rise today with a heavy heart, for it will shortly be time for me to say goodbye, for now at least, to one of the most extraordinary men I have ever had the pleasure of knowing in my 83 years on God's footstool, this Earth.

The minority staff director of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Mr. Jim English, has decided to retire this year. Jim English has been my right arm, figuratively speaking, since 1989, when I assumed the chairmanship of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate. We have been through so many battles together, that sometimes it seems as if Jim English has always been with me. I could almost say, I can never remember a time in my life when Jim was not beside me.

In fact, I met Jim English in 1973, when he worked on the Transportation Subcommittee, but he did not actually work directly for me until 1989.

Jim English was born on a farm near Homer, LA. That simple fact explains a great deal. Jim English has a head full of brains. And he knows how to use them. They do not go to waste. They are not dormant. They are always working. But while he has a head full of brains, he does not have a thimble full of arrogance or supercilious attitude.

He is rock solid. He is honest. And he is full of good humor. He is the type of person whose values and character reflect the very best of America, and indeed the very best of human nature, and the preeminently best of nobility. Few persons have I seen in life that I would think of as being noble. Jim English is one. I do not recall ever having said this about anybody else. It does not mean that I have not seen other very noble people. The man who raised me, Titus Dalton Byrd, a man of little education, but with a big heart and a great soul, was a noble man.

James English has had a working career which includes being an accounting clerk for the D.C. Government, revenue officer for the IRS, clerk of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, vice president for government affairs at Amtrak, Assistant Secretary of the Senate, staff director of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and minority staff director of the Appropriations Committee. I daresay that